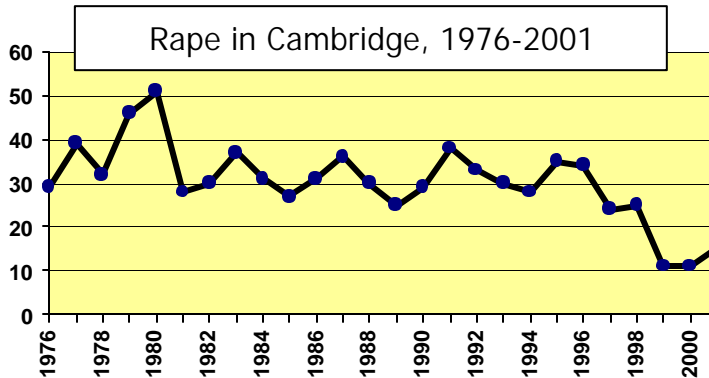


Rape

11 in 2000 · 15 in 2001 · 36% Increase



Forcible Rape, as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

15 rapes were reported to Cambridge Police. Although this is an increase of 36% from last year's all time low, this is the second lowest number of rapes in the past 25 years.

Two of the 11 rapes were *stranger* rapes, meaning that the victim did not know the attacker:

- On September 17, 2000, reported February 28, 2001, a woman was raped twice by two white males in their twenties. This occurred while the woman was walking through Cambridge Common.
- On September 23, 2001, at 7:45 a.m., an unknown man entered an Inman/Harrington house through an unlocked bedroom window and attempted to rape a young woman who was sleeping in her bedroom.

The Crime Analysis Unit classifies rape into five different categories:

Acquaintance Rapes

Acquaintance rapes are non-domestic rapes committed by someone that the victim knows. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including "date rapes." There were four acquaintance rapes reported in 2001. They include a homeless rape and a rape that took place at train tracks.

	Acq.	Blitz	Cont.	Dom.	H.I.	Total
Complete	4	1	3	3	1	12
Attempt	0	0	2	1	0	3
Total	4	1	5	4	1	15

Blitz Rapes

Blitz rapes are stranger rapes in which the rapist rapidly and brutally assaults his victim with no prior contact. He "comes out of nowhere" or "blitzes" the victim. They usually occur at night in a public place. One such rape was reported in 2001 that occurred when a woman was raped at gunpoint and then forced to withdraw money from an ATM.

Contact Rapes

These are a type of stranger rape in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain her confidence before assaulting her. Contact rapists pick up their victims in bars, lure them into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a rape situation. There were five such rapes in 2001, including the September 17 rape described at left.

Domestic Rapes

Domestic rapes involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, and family members. There were four such incidents in 2001.

Home Invasion Rapes

This type of stranger rape occurs when the rapist breaks into the victim's home to commit his crime.

Statistical Note

Rape, like all other crimes, is subject to reclassification subsequent to investigation. Statistical discrepancies sometimes arise when crimes counted during one time period are later re-classified. Such was the case with several 1999 rapes, re-classified after victims recanted or altered their testimony, or after new facts came to the attention of the Sexual Assault Unit. The decision to re-classify a crime is not taken lightly; it is made only after careful investigation and consideration on the part of the investigating detectives.

There was one home invasion rape in 2001, the September 23 incident reviewed at left a deaf woman.

The Cambridge Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit reports that 9 incidents in 2001 have been cleared by arrest.

Stranger Rapes Reported in Cambridge, 1997-2001



Rape around the Region & Nation

The estimated 90,186 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement agencies nationwide in 2000. This is the first time since 1992 that there has been an increase in the number of rapes. The 2000 forcible rape total shows a .9% increase from the 1999 level, 6.3% decrease from 1996, and a 15.4% decrease since 1991.

The FBI reported a .9 percent increase in reported rapes (and a 2.3 percent decrease in rapes per 100,000 persons) across the nation between 1999 and 2000. Like the Cambridge Police Department, the FBI cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of the statistics uncertain.

In Massachusetts, cities with populations between 50,000 and 150,000 reported an average of 27 rapes per 100,000 residents. These cities include Brockton (39 per 100,000), Brookline (9), Lowell (45), Lynn (14), Chicopee (39), Fall River (39), Haverill (23), Lawrence (20), Medford (3), New Bedford (44), Plymouth (8), Quincy (37), Taunton (12), Waltham (12), Weymouth (4), Peabody (7), Somerville (17) and Newton (5). Cities and towns surrounding Cambridge (excluding Boston) reported a combined total of 27 rapes, a 59% increase from 1999 totals.

**National and Regional Statistics for 2001 are not yet available*